

# **EXHIBIT 31**

MAILED

FEB 24 1998

PAT. & T.M. OFFICE  
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES



PAPER NO. 36

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office  
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## RESPONSE TO STATUS INQUIRY

This is in response to the Status Inquiry filed Feb 12, 1998, in Application No. 08/252,384, Appeal No. 97-2138 status of the application is indicated as follows:

- (x) Your appeal was received on Apr 2, 1997 at the Board and it is currently awaiting review prior to docket assignment.
- ( ) Your appeal is currently assigned to the docket of an Administrative Patent Judge. There are \_\_\_\_\_ appeals ahead of your appeal on that judge's docket.
- ( ) Your appeal has been reviewed and is currently awaiting assignment of a hearing date.

If there are any questions regarding the status of this or any other application awaiting decision at the Board, please call one of the Program and Resources Administrators at (703) 308-9797.

